

ever, during very cold periods odd birds find their way to the lower ranges, and in the winter of 1921 we saw a pair on the eastern side of the river near Lindisfarne.

*Gymnorhina hypoleuca*. White-backed Magpie.\*—A common bird in the open country on the eastern side of the River Derwent.

*Cracticus torquatus*. Grey Butcher-Bird.\*—The "Jackass" as this bird is locally named, is fairly plentiful in the vicinity of Hobart and the suburbs of Bellerive and Lindisfarne. As a home-defender this bird is very pugnacious.

We are informed on good authority that the following species have also been observed within the five mile radius:—*Turnix varia* (Painted Quail), *Circus approximans* (Swamp Hawk), *Stipiturus malachurus* (Emu Wren).

#### INTRODUCED BIRDS.

*Turtur ferrago*. Indian Turtle Dove.\*—Very common. These birds were introduced to Tasmania by the late Mrs. H. L. Roberts of "Beaumaris."

*Carduelis carduelis*. Goldfinch.\*—Very plentiful about Hobart and suburbs. Breeds freely.

*Passer domesticus*. House Sparrow.\*—Very common.

*Sturnus vulgaris*. Starling.\*—The birds, at certain seasons of the year, gather in immense flocks and spend the nights in the oak trees in the city gardens.

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**Spinetailed Swifts in Tas.**—The "tale of the Swifts" (*Chactura caudacuta*) for the summer of 1922 is very soon told. They did not appear on our North-West coast until 8th March, when at 3.30 p.m. some passed swiftly towards the west, flying rather low. Afterwards, a large number came from the direction of the beach (north), and, passing to south and south-west, stayed there for some time, many of them at a great height, and circling in their mazy dance. At 6.30 (about sunset) some more passed rapidly, singly or in pairs, to the westward. The day had been sultry, foreboding change, with great numbers of flying ants and other insects in the air; wind, first easterly, afterwards S.W., light; sky mostly covered with alto-stratus cloud. The following day was very hot with north wind, and the second day there was a squally north-wester, with clouds of dust and a rough sea. On 28th March there was a solar halo at 9 a.m., and a solitary Swift appeared at a great height, flying within the circumference of the ring, and making somewhat in a north-easterly direction. In the early afternoon the sun was exceedingly warm; later the sky became overcast, a strong N.W. wind sprang up with heavy showers until early next morning. Thus were the forecasts of those two prognosticators of cyclonic disturbance, the halo and the Spine-tailed Swift, again fulfilled. This was the last of the birds seen on our coast, although Mr. H. C. Thompson recorded them as late as 15th April in Launceston, which, being in a basin surrounded by hills, forms a more sheltered feeding-ground in late autumn than does the open coast.—H. STUART DOVE, F.Z.S., W. Devonport, Tasmania.